

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A messaging method comprising:

configuring a messaging device of the called party to store outgoing messaging and connection parameters;

receiving an indication of a call from a calling party to a called party via an Internet protocol network;

answering the call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format at a premises of the called party;

prompting the calling party to leave a message;

saving at least a portion of the message as an audio file;

recognizing that the calling party left the message;

identifying an email address associated with the calling party;

preparing an outgoing message in response to recognizing that the calling party left the message, the outgoing message including the email address associated with the calling party;

attaching the audio file to the outgoing message;

addressing the outgoing message to a network node associated with a unified messaging mailbox of the called party; and

initiating sending of the message and the audio file from the premises to the network node;

wherein the call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol call.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
disconnecting from the call;
prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service Provider;
recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
outputting information representing the outgoing message for delivery via the connection.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising outputting a username and password to the Internet Service Provider to gain access to an account of the called party.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a notification list including at least one calling party;
receiving identification information associated with the call and identifying the calling party; and
determining that the calling party is the at least one calling party.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the outgoing message has a format selected from the group consisting of an electronic mail message format, a mobile alert format, an IM format, an SMS format, an EMS format, and an MMS format.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising utilizing a modem device to send the outgoing message, wherein the modem device is selected from the group consisting of a cable modem, a dial-up modem, a wireless modem, a satellite modem, and an xDSL modem.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that a data connection exists; and
utilizing the data connection to send the outgoing message.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages comprises a multi-modal message having an audio component and a non-audio component.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting the audio file into an uuencoded text format.

11-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating unified messaging, comprising:
communicatively coupling a messaging device to a premises network communicatively coupled to a wide-area communication network, the wide-area communication network comprising an Internet protocol network;
communicatively coupling a telephone station at the premises to the messaging device;
communicatively coupling a computer to the messaging device;
configuring the messaging device to store outgoing messaging and connection parameters; and
employing the messaging device to answer an incoming telephone call from a calling party, to play a pre-recorded message that prompts the calling party to leave a message, to record a voice message from the calling party, to identify an email address associated with the calling party, to compose an electronic mail message in response to the voice message, to attach an audio file representing the voice message to the electronic mail message, and to initiate sending of the electronic mail message via the wide-area communication network;
wherein the electronic mail message includes the email address of the calling party.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising executing code directing the computer to store a username and password in a memory associated with the messaging device, to indicate a messaging address for an intended recipient of the electronic mail message, and to indicate an identifier for a remote messaging server communicatively coupled to the wide-area network.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
determining that a data connection exists interconnecting the premises network and a node of the wide-area network; and
utilizing the data connection to send the electronic mail message.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
disconnecting from the incoming telephone call;
prompting a modem to dial a telephone number associated with an Internet Service
Provider;
recognizing that a connection exists with the Internet Service Provider; and
utilizing the connection to send the electronic mail message.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the audio file has a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, an MP3 file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising addressing the electronic mail message to more than one intended recipient.

27. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising attaching a second file to the electronic mail message comprising non-audio information communicated by the calling party.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable data to configure a messaging device of the called party to store outgoing messaging and connection parameters, answer an incoming telephone call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format from a calling party via an Internet protocol network, to play a pre-recorded message that prompts the calling party to leave an audio portion of a message and that prompts the calling party to include non-audio data with the message, to record a voice message from the calling party, to compose an outgoing electronic mail message in response to the voice message, to attach an audio file representing the voice message to the outgoing electronic mail message, and to initiate sending of the outgoing electronic mail message; wherein the incoming telephone call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol call.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein the audio file is encoded in an uuencoded text format.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) A messaging system, comprising:

a network interface responsive to an Internet Protocol network to receive a call;

a call answering mechanism to answer the call in a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) format, to prompt the calling party to leave an audio portion of a message, and to prompt the calling party to leave a non-audio portion of the message;

a memory to store the message;

a messaging engine to compose an outgoing message including the stored audio and non-audio portions of the message and to transmit the outgoing message to a remote messaging server;

a messaging device configured to store outgoing messaging and connection parameters;

and

a VoIP engine communicatively coupled to the network interface to process the call.

33. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a text message.

34. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the non-audio portion comprises a visual message.

35. (Previously Presented) The messaging system of claim 32, wherein the messaging engine addresses the outgoing message to one or more intended recipients.

36. (New) The messaging method of claim 1, wherein the stored outgoing messaging and configuration parameters comprise at least one of: an address of one or more intended recipients of the outgoing message, dialing instructions for connecting to a data network, username/password combinations, SMTP server identifiers.